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The Avoidance of Moral Panic – An Anglo-Polish Perspective

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Faculty of Business and Law and Institute of
Philosophy and Sociology

The characteristics of the A8 migration compared with earlier migrations to the UK

Long history of Polish and other migration to UK – CHOICE



May 2004 – May 2011

Nino **950,570**

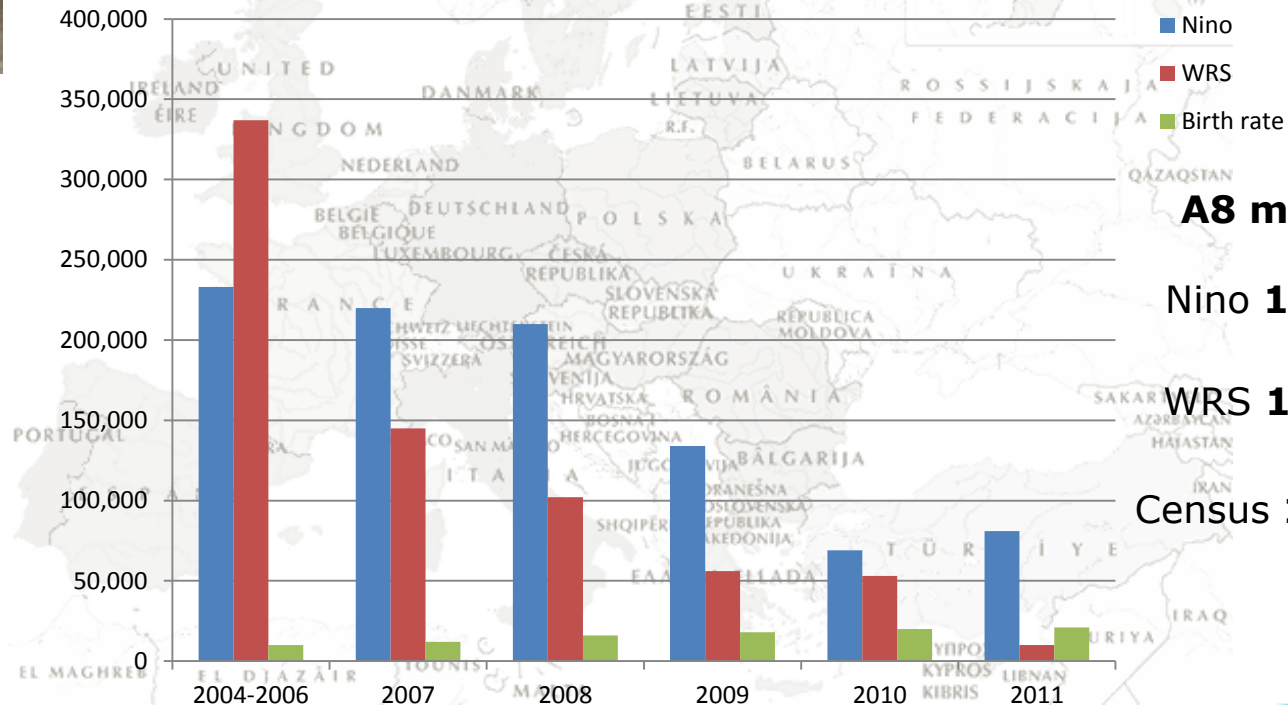
WRS **705,890**

Birth rate **98,000**

Census **579,000**

The accession (A8)- the facts?

Polish migration



A8 migration

Nino **1,708,030**

WRS **1,134,711**

Census **1,114,000**

A new type of migration?

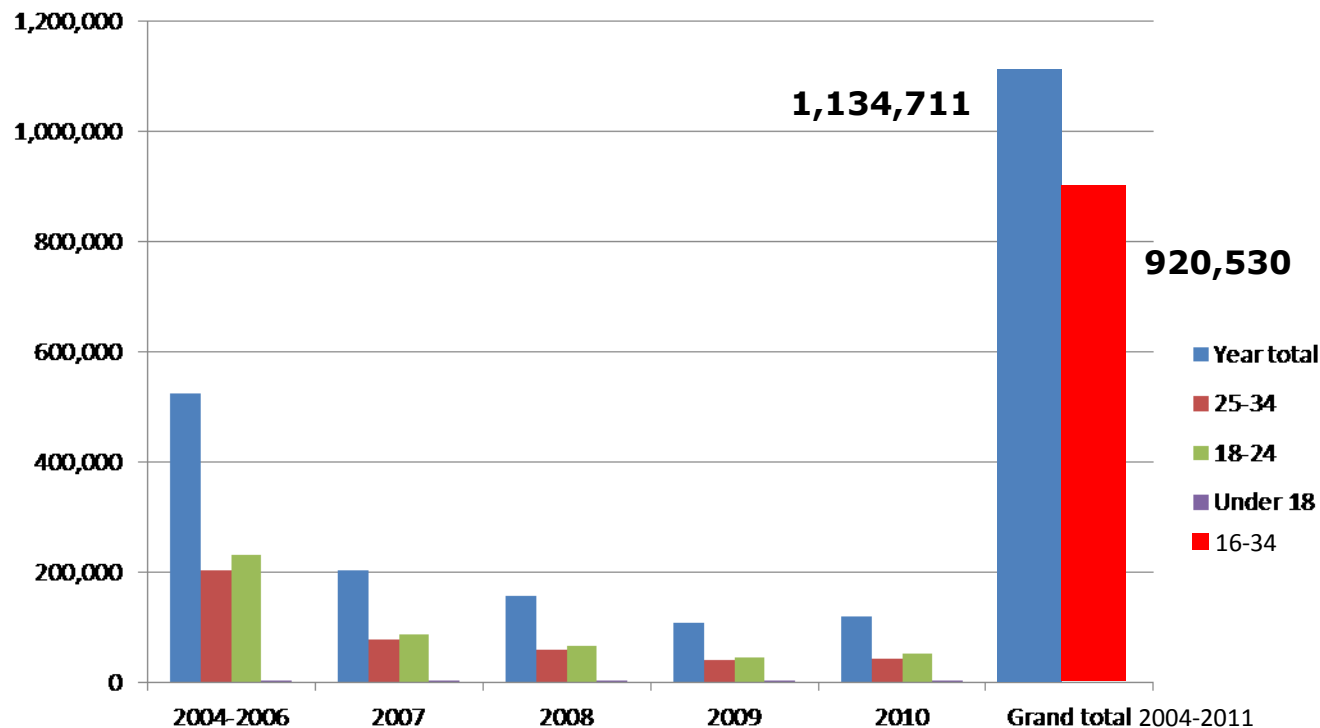
The significance of younger and more transient migrants



1. Those who registered;
2. The self-employed;
3. Illegal to legal;
4. The 'free marketeers'.



A8 migration



The conditions for Polish migrant workers

A crisis of governance?

- Joint working and alliances
- Policy discord?



THE TREATMENT OF POLISH AND OTHER AS ECONOMIC MIGRANTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES

A research programme prepared for
Dr. Janusz Kochanowski,
Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection of the Republic of Poland

Jo Carby-Hall
University of Hull
and
Consulate of the Republic of Poland, Hull

HOUSE OF LORDS
Select Committee on Economic Affairs
1st Report of Session 2007-08

The Economic Impact of Immigration

Volume I: Report

Ordered to be printed 18 March 2008 and published 1 April 2008

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2008

HL Paper 82-I



The emergence of a moral panic



The concept of moral panics explores the collective concern towards an alleged menace to social order;

Panics serve to reassert the dominance of an established value system, provide security at a time of social anxiety, and target those who are considered folk-devils;

Social reactions towards A8 migrants in Britain after 2004 followed a pattern identified by moral panic scholars: concern, hostility, dis-proportionality, symbolization and Then the intervention of social control agents.



The emergence of a moral panic

A heightened level of concern over A8 migrants has been detected from the news media prior to the accession and then in its early and mature stages at both national and local levels.

Particularly, the fear of migrant crime fuelled by the Tabloid press has Affected policy Making responses.



The emergence of a moral panic

According to existing data the alleged threat posed by Eastern European migrants was not corroborated by the empirical evidence on the actual risk to social cohesion.

Claims that EU enlargement would mean a flood of crime was not evidenced by criminal records.



The emergence of a moral panic

Similarly the allegations about social housing abuses committed by new migrants were not justified.

There was also no statistical evidence to support claims that migrants from Eastern Europe have expanded the Scale of unemployment in the UK

